(a) whether there is a plan for a SKY Bus Project in Mumbai in collaboration with Konkan Railway Corporation;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the project would be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government of Maharashtra has appointed Mumbai Metropolitan Regional Development Authority (MMRDA) as a nodal agency to implement SKY Bus Metro in Mumbai. Based on the proposals submitted by Konkan Railway to MMRDA, they are planning to implement SKY Bus Metro from Andheri to Ghatkopar in collaboration with Konkan Railway. The details of methodology of implementation are being worked out.

(c) The financial and implementation schedule in yet to be worked out.

Facilities and amenities at New Delhi Railway Station

5494. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the report appearing in the Times of India of 15th April, 2002 that passenger facilities/ amenities at the New Delhi Railway Station are far below, and utter confusion prevailed for purchase of platform tickets, securing wheeled chair for handicapped, etc.;

(b) if so, whether administration had failed to provide sufficient stock and passenger guides to help the passengers, especially the handicapped;

(c) whether DRM officials, sitting close-by failed to monitor the arrangements/facilities, especially during peak hours; if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the administration to take care of the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) to (d) Yes Sir, the said report highlights the problem of purchasing platform tickets and securing wheel chair for handicapped at New Delhi Railway Station.

Though the platform tickets are available at all the 36 counters at New Delhi Railway Station, seven counters have exclusively been earmarked for this. The availability of platform tickets has been prominently displayed in the concourse and at the booking counters. As regards the problem relating to wheel chairs, 16 wheel chairs have been provided at the station and the same is considered adequate to tackle the current demands. Signages have been provided at various important locations indicating the availability of various services. Moreover, regular announcements are also made on Public Address System round the clock with regard to late running of trains, coolie charges availability of platform tickets, wheel chair and its charges etc.

Transfer policy in Railways

†5495. SHRI D.P. YADAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railway Ministry has prepared a policy to transfer the employees/officers who have completed five years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that some employees/officers of stations attached to Allahabad Division are working there for more than five years, if so, post-wise, time-wise and station-wise, details thereof;

(d) whether it is a fact that due to this, administrative problems and corruption have increased and number of complaints have been received during this period; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and what action Government would take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Railway employees holding sensitive posts and who frequently come into contact with public and/or contractors/suppliers are required to be transferred every four years. In order to avoid large scale dislocation of staff, periodical transfers are, as far as possible, effected without involving a change of residence of the staff concerned, so long as the fundamental objective of such transfers can be achieved by transferring such staff to a different location in the same station or to a different station in the same urban agglomeration. However, staff detected to be indulging in malpractices or having figured

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.